

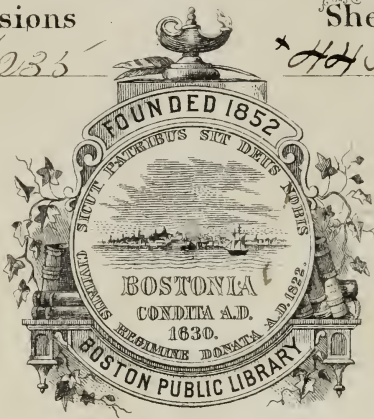


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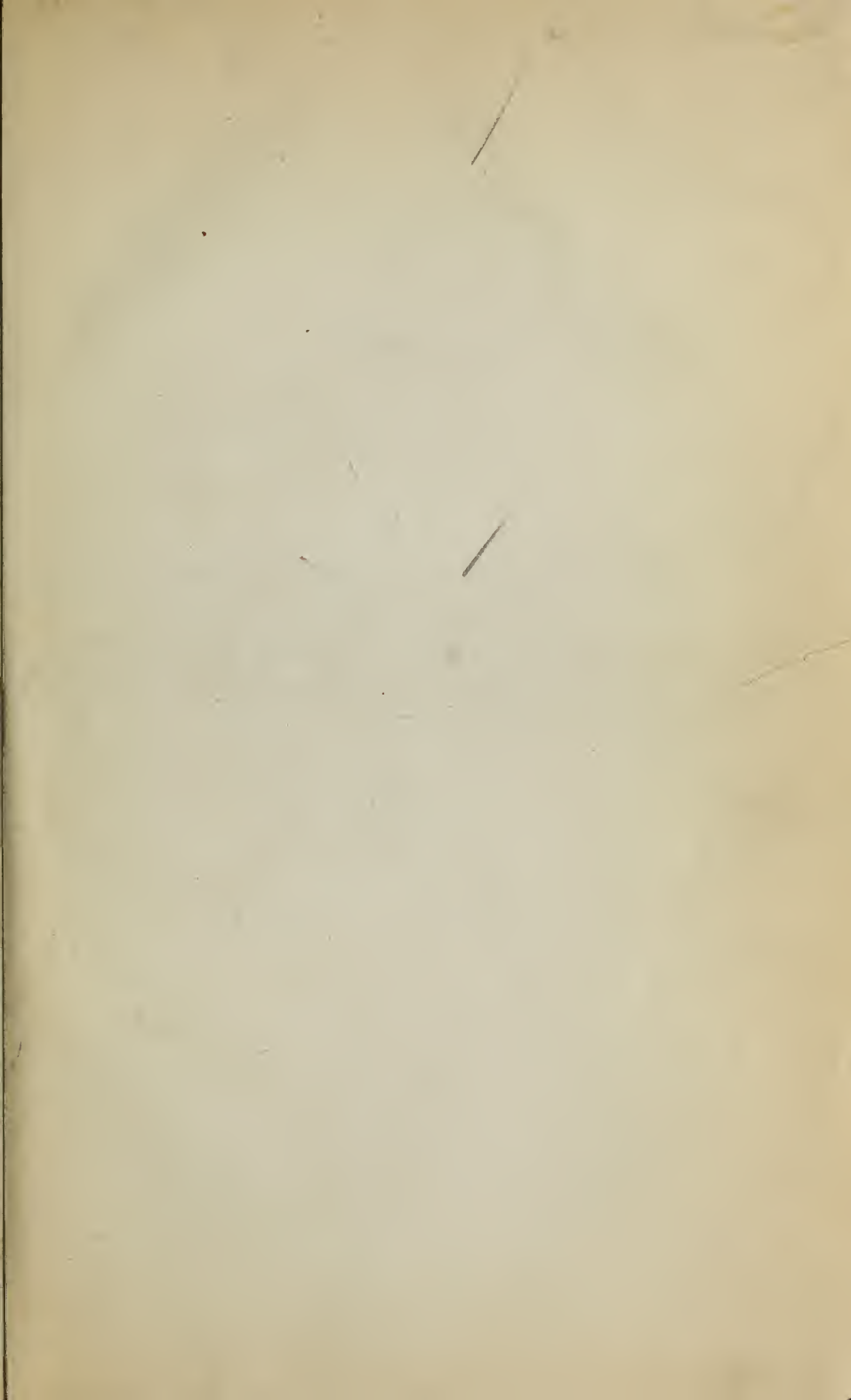
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Henry Bromfield

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ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

INAUGURATION

OF THE

State Industrial School for Girls,

AT LANCASTER, AUG. 27, 1856;

WITH

ADDRESSES BY H. B. ROGERS, ESQ., HON. G. S. BOUTWELL,  
AND OTHERS.

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BOSTON:

PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON AND SON,

22, SCHOOL STREET.

1856.

## OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION

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*Superintendent and Chaplain.*

BRADFORD K. PEIRCE.

*Farmer.*

A. E. BOYNTON.

*Matrons.*

MRS. C. M. I. CARPENTER.

MRS. MARY M. WILLARD.

## GOVERNMENT.

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NOTE.—The following account is taken from the "Boston Daily Advertiser" of Aug. 28, 1856.



## PROCEEDINGS.

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IN accordance with previous appointment, the ceremonies of the inauguration of the State Industrial School (originally called the State Reform School) for Girls, at Lancaster, took place on Wednesday. The weather was delightful, — it was a magnificent latter-August day: there was a clear sky and atmosphere, and a bright sun, without the least uncomfortable heat or disagreeable chilliness. The fine old town of Lancaster appeared to great advantage as seen by the visitors, who were attracted, some of them for the first time, within its borders, by their interest in the proposed ceremonies. The beautiful interval, covered with a luxurious verdure; the grand old trees; and the intelligent and hospitable people, — created a most favorable impression. And in the crowded annals of the town, which for two centuries has known many good deeds, we doubt if any day will present a brighter page in the local history than the 27th of August, 1856.

A special train over the Fitchburg and Nashua and Worcester Railroads, by means of the connection at Groton Junction, speedily conveyed the party from Boston to Lancaster, leaving Boston at nine o'clock in the morning. About one hundred and fifty gentlemen composed this party, including his excellency the Governor, several members of the Executive Council, heads of departments, the Sergeant-at-arms, the Sheriff of Middlesex, and others representing the State Government; Moses Grant, Esq., Sampson Reed, Esq., Rev. Andrew Bigelow, and other gentlemen of this city, distinguished for their interest in schemes of practical benevolence. At the Lancaster Station, the party was informally welcomed by Rev. Bradford K. Peirce, Superintendent and Chaplain of the Institution, and was conveyed in carriages to the site of the buildings, distant from the station about one mile.

Before proceeding further in our account, we may as well state, that it is the design of this Institution to afford to exposed and helpless girls that protection, on the part of the State, which their natural protectors either cannot or will not afford. Its subjects will be taken between the ages of seven and sixteen, on the warrant of Judges of Probate, after an examination, at which any person professing a right of control or guardianship over the girl will be heard. They will be committed until they shall attain the age of sixteen, and will be detained in the School so

long as may appear necessary or expedient, and may then be placed in families. In the cities and towns, Commissioners may be appointed by the Governor, having the same authority to send girls to the School as the Judges of Probate.

The examination of the fitness of a girl for the School must not be regarded as a criminal proceeding: the sending of the girl there is not a punishment, nor is the School in any sense a prison.

For the better execution of this design, it was determined not to erect any gigantic building for the accommodation of a numerous crowd of inmates, but rather to give the girls the feeling of residing like a *family* in a *home*.

The Commissioners who were appointed by Governor Washburn to select a site, erect buildings, and prepare a plan for the Institution, were Messrs. John H. Wilkins, Henry B. Rogers, and Francis B. Fay. They have nobly discharged their duty, and have fully justified the wisdom of Governor Washburn in selecting them, and the generous confidence of Governor Gardner in retaining them to the completion of their task. After a diligent examination of various localities, and comparison of advantages, they selected the old "Stillwell Place," in the town of Lancaster. Here they were so fortunate as to be able to purchase a hundred acres of excellent land, with a large, old-fashioned mansion-house, built of brick, two wooden dwelling-houses, with barns and

fixtures, for a sum a little exceeding ten thousand dollars. The two wooden houses are well adapted for the residences of the Superintendent and of the Farmer, respectively. The mansion-house was enlarged and fitted for the purposes of the School at an expense of about four thousand dollars, and two new brick buildings were put up at an expense of about twelve thousand five hundred dollars each. These sums, with some other expenses of construction, were met by the original State appropriation of twenty thousand dollars, and the private subscription of twenty thousand three hundred dollars. The State also appropriated five thousand dollars for furnishing the buildings, and likewise bears the current expenses of maintenance.

The two new buildings, with the mansion-house, make three separate "homes" for three separate "families" of girls, which are designed to be kept distinct in most respects, with separate matrons and assistants residing in each house, but united under the general care of one superintendent. The two new buildings are precisely alike. They are constructed of brick, in the best style, without ornament, and neatly and appropriately furnished. The following general description will give an idea of their appearance and internal arrangement: Each of them is two stories in height, and constructed in the form of an L. Entering at the front-door, which is near the angle of the L, on your right is the

parlor; from which opens the "workroom," likewise on the right hand of the entry; next this is a small lighted room or closet; and a schoolroom, at the end of the entry, occupies the remainder of the L. All the rooms appear small to one who has the idea of a public institution in his mind; but, compared with the private dwellings of persons in ordinary circumstances, they are of sufficient size. The schoolroom is fitted with desks for thirty scholars. Opposite the workroom, on the left of the entry, is the laundry, and a large closet adjoining.

Starting again at the front-door, at the left hand, opposite the parlor, is the dining-room; from which we proceed through the other arm of the L into the kitchen, a large lighted pantry intervening. In this part of the building are likewise a bathroom, washroom, and drying-room. There is a passage leading from a door in the end of this arm of the L into the main entry, between the dining-room and the large closet adjoining the laundry.

On the second story, over the parlor, is the matron's room; over the workroom is the general dormitory, containing six beds designed for twelve inmates; over the dining-room is a room called the "hospital;" and at each end of the L are eight small single bedrooms. The attic is finished as a safe and commodious playroom; and there are one or two rooms in this part of the house which may be used as additional dormitories, on an emergency.



All the rooms are very thoroughly ventilated. The houses are heated by furnaces. There is a copious supply of pure water carried to the highest part of the houses: it is brought from an unfailing spring, about one mile distant, in iron pipes lined with porcelain. The head has an elevation of a hundred and eight feet above the plateau on which the houses stand; and the arrangement is thus an effective safeguard in case of fire, as well as a great domestic convenience. There is a fountain, or jet, in the centre of the grounds, from which a small stream was played during a portion of the exercises.

The furniture is neat, and not luxurious. A little bed, a bureau, a chair, a small piece of carpeting, a diminutive mirror, and a Bible, complete the appointments of the single dormitories. But every thing is nice, and all the arrangements are of the most convenient description. Each of the three houses is designed to accommodate thirty girls. The rooms of the Matron and her Assistant are so arranged that they can have a general supervision over the whole establishment. We neglected to obtain an exact measurement; but the length of each arm of the L is about seventy-five feet, and the breadth about thirty. We should mention, that the shape of the buildings is not perfectly regular; but there are slight variations, which add to their convenience, and give them a better appearance.

The mansion-house is three stories in height (the

water is carried to the highest), and differs somewhat in its internal arrangement from the others; but it has been made, by new partitions, to conform substantially to the general plan. The roof of each house commands a fine prospect, embracing beautiful scenery far and near, the summits of Wachusett and Monadnock being distinctly visible in the distance. Large trees abound in the grounds about the houses.

We have already mentioned the name of Mr. Peirce, the Superintendent, who resides with his family in one of the wooden houses. The Farmer, Mr. A. E. Boynton, resides in another. The two Matrons already appointed are Mrs. C. M. S. Carpenter and Mrs. Mary M. Willard.

For a chapel for the Institution, a small church, standing in the village of South Lancaster, has been purchased, and will be moved to the grounds. There are handsome bookcases in the "workrooms," and the beginning of a library; but we should think the donation of books might be acceptable.

There is no paint in any part of the new buildings. The wood-work is the chestnut-elm, finely finished, and presenting a handsome appearance unpainted. There are commodious cellars under all the buildings. They have been erected under the unremitting superintendence of Mr. J. E. Howe, and the personal supervision of the Commissioners. All the work has been done "by the day;" and

they are fine specimens of thorough and unostentatious workmanship.

The time, after the arrival of the train, was spent by the visitors in wandering about the grounds, and over the houses, until one o'clock, when the company, numbering from one to two thousand gentlemen and ladies, were collected in front of the old mansion-house, on the porch of which a platform was erected. Part of the company being seated, while others were standing, under the shade of the fine old trees, the ladies clad in their gay summer attire, relieved by the duller hues of the gentlemen's masculine apparel, the scene presented a lively and picturesque appearance. The people of Lancaster appear to take much interest in the success of the School, — a circumstance which augurs favorably for its success; and they attended the ceremonies in considerable numbers. Music was furnished by the Worcester Cornet Band, supported by a numerous vocal choir composed of the union of the young gentlemen and ladies of the two church choirs of the town.

Shortly after one o'clock, Hon. JOHN H. WILKINS, of this city, in behalf of the Commissioners, called the assembly to order, and welcomed the company to the services and ceremonies of THE INAUGURATION OF THE STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Willis's familiar Hymn, "The perfect world, by Adam trod," altered for the occasion, was read by Rev.



FRANKLIN B. DOE, of Lancaster, and sung by the choir. The same clergyman next read some appropriate selections from the Scriptures; after which a devout prayer was offered by Rev. GEORGE M. BARTOL, of Lancaster.

HENRY B. ROGERS, Esq., in behalf of the Commissioners, then delivered an Address, as follows: —

TRUSTEES, GENTLEMEN, AND LADIES, — We have come to perform a pleasant duty. Under the patronage of the Executive, and in the presence of this concourse of intelligent citizens, we are assembled to inaugurate a new institution for the benefit of ourselves and the rising generation. Thanks to our Pilgrim Fathers, this is no new or unaccustomed duty. They had scarcely made a lodgment in the wilderness before they founded a college for the instruction of youth in knowledge and religion; and their successors have faithfully followed in their footsteps. Churches, colleges, schools, libraries, observatories, galleries, museums, hospitals, asylums, institutions of all sorts for the cultivation, growth, and diffusion of religion, literature, science, and art, or for the cure and amelioration of the thousand ills, physical and moral, to which humanity is subject, have, from time to time, been established and put into successful operation by the State, by incorporated bodies, and by private individuals; and they are this day, as a general thing, in a flourishing condition, and doing their beneficent work. Yes, my friends, the principles and the spirit of our Puritan forefathers have made this Commonwealth the nursing mother of institutions designed for the improvement and welfare of society. Massachusetts, — time-honored Massa-

chusetts, reviled and insulted Massachusetts, — in this hour of darkness, passion, and prejudice, may proudly point to these her jewels. They are the golden fruits of the tree which her fathers planted, and which her sons have not ceased to water. True to herself, to the constitution, to conscience, to law, and to liberty, she will calmly wait the judgment of posterity upon her policy and her acts. If she fail not in this crisis of public affairs, Time, the great vindicator, will do her justice at last. All her sisters, even, shall rise up and call her blessed.

Every public institution is an expression of the position and condition of the community in which it takes its rise ; and perhaps one of the best tests of progress in civilization is the provision which is made for the welfare of the masses of the citizens. For the physical and moral condition of what, in most States, are called the lower orders, in a great degree, fixes and determines the limits to which the body politic, as a whole, can advance. Great and good men may abound in a nation ; certain classes may advance rapidly in wealth, knowledge, and culture ; all the arts and sciences of life may flourish ; a halo of glory and prosperity may spread itself over the surface of things : but if the masses of the people be despised or neglected, if they be suffered to become or remain ignorant, degraded, and corrupt, no real or permanent growth can be maintained. The tree may put forth a fair show of leaves ; it may even bear some fruit : but if its roots, with their thousand delicate ramifications, receive no appropriate nourishment from the soil in which they are fixed, it will inevitably die down, and at last perish for ever. History, in all its examples, teaches this sad lesson. And hence it is one of the most hopeful signs of our times, and one of the main securities for the permanent conservation of modern society, that more and more attention is now

bestowed upon the condition of the poorer and less-favored classes of the citizens. In England, especially, the thought of the wisest and best-educated minds is engaged in devising well-digested schemes for its amelioration and improvement. Laborious investigations into the causes and condition of poverty and crime, by Parliament; elaborate discussions in the great reviews; and a host of books and pamphlets, the product of thoughtful men and women, — all bear testimony to the interest and feeling of the British public upon this subject. In our own country, public attention has not been drawn to poverty and crime, their causes, dangers, and remedies, so widely or deeply as in England; for these evils have not pressed upon society here with the same iron grip as there. Still, we have our model prisons, retreats, and houses of reformation; and there is good reason to believe that the time is not distant, when these and kindred subjects will assume that place in the public thought which their real importance demands. This Commonwealth, some years since, made noble provision for the education and moral improvement of exposed and helpless boys, in founding an establishment at Westborough for their benefit; and she now proposes to perform a similar service for an equally wretched and unfortunate class of girls. The claims of the latter, indeed, upon her regard, are even greater than those of the former; for there is something in the unprotected condition of females which appeals more directly to our sympathies; and, besides, in the estimation of most reflecting persons, the influence which they exert upon the moral welfare of society is earlier put forth, wider, deeper, and more lasting, than that of men. Individuals who have been distinguished for greatness or moral worth have generally been the children of women of noble, elevated, and decided character; and it is certain that there is no surer index of the condition of any

community than the character of its females. It was not, therefore, we feel assured, from any want of interest in the welfare of large numbers of young girls among us, nor from any mistrust of the validity of their claims upon the public regard, that the Legislature undertook, in the first instance, to make provision for boys, but rather from the conviction that it would be best to provide for each sex separately ; and that, inasmuch as the appropriate treatment of girls was generally looked upon as a matter *sui generis*, and attended with difficulties of a formidable and peculiar kind, it would, in the end, subserve their interests better to provide for boys first, and thus make the experience acquired in taking charge of them the means of obtaining at last a more permanent and satisfactory provision for girls. The soundness of these views will be generally admitted ; and we have no doubt that the delay which has arisen will be more than made up by the result, provided this Institution be now faithfully and carefully administered. In 1854, the Legislature passed a resolve, which appropriated the sum of twenty thousand dollars for the establishment of a Reform School for Girls, upon condition that an equal amount should be raised by private donations ; and they also authorized the Governor to appoint three Commissioners to propose a system of organization and government, prepare plans and estimates, and select a site. The proposed subscription having been speedily obtained from generously disposed individuals, the larger part of whom were citizens of Boston, the commission, in whose behalf I now address you, entered upon their labors. They did so with no little diffidence, for the service was new, delicate, and difficult ; but also with a becoming spirit and determination, for they regarded it as one of much importance to the welfare, not only of the children who were to be provided for, but of the State itself. They are



here to-day to give an account of what they have done, and to surrender this spot, with the buildings which they have erected, into the hands of you, gentlemen, who have been appointed by his excellency the Governor to take charge of this noble charity, and to make of it all that the public has a right to expect from men selected by the highest officer of the State.

It is unnecessary to enter into an argument to prove the wisdom and urgent need of an institution like this we are commencing here; for every mind, that will give the subject a moment's thought, must come to the same conclusion in respect to it. That in all our large towns there is a considerable class of young girls, who, in consequence of the poverty, ignorance, or moral degradation, of their parents and natural protectors, or from the melancholy fact that they have no one to care for and protect them, are living an idle, dissolute, and wretched life, and that, by their position and condition, these girls are sure to imbibe habits, passions, and vices which will destroy their own happiness in life, and spread sin and baneful influences through every circle with which they come in contact, is well known and self-evident to every man who walks through our streets. The law of self-protection, to say nothing of the law of Christian benevolence, imperatively demands that some one, and, if any one, the State itself, most appropriately, should interpose to ameliorate, if not to remedy, this sad state of things. And surely the safest, the kindest, the least expensive remedy, in fact, the only possible practical one, is to remove these children from the position into which they have fallen, and place them where they may receive the common comforts of life, and such discipline and training as shall be likely to act upon their characters for good. The Reform School, therefore, is not only a necessity, — it is also a blessing; for it takes the custody of the child before its moral nature has become hard-

ened, and before it has had much opportunity of corrupting others. If it succeeds in nothing else, it at least interrupts its criminal education at that critical time of life, when, from its pliability, both of body and mind, it is likely to be the aptest pupil; and, if properly managed, it will do far more than this, as the statistics of the best institutions most abundantly prove. The Commissioners, then, could have no doubts in respect to the necessity or utility of any institution which should take charge of exposed and helpless young girls; for any change in the circumstances of children situated as thousands are in this Commonwealth would be for the better.

But the real question which addressed itself to them was, What sort of an institution, what system of discipline and training, will be likely to effect the greatest amount of good? To determine satisfactorily this question, they have visited various reformatory establishments in this and several of the other States; made written and verbal inquiries of many persons, distinguished for their knowledge or experience, in respect to the condition and management of unfortunate children; and read carefully whatever of importance has been published upon the subject in this country, England, and France. The knowledge gathered from these several sources, accompanied by long and patient consideration of the subject in all its various aspects, has gradually drawn them to the conclusion to adopt the plan which, for the first time in this country, is now commenced here. The arguments in its favor are briefly the following: It is theoretically more simple, natural, and just; more nearly conformable to the position and habits of children; admits of easier division and wider classification; and, practically, it has, in Germany, France, and England, proved itself to be eminently successful. This plan is founded upon the idea of a family, — the oldest, the best, and the most cherished institution enjoyed by man.

It considers the family as ordained by God, in special reference to its adaptation and fitness to the training of young children ; and consequently, that, when a child from any cause is deprived of this blessing, the best substitute within our reach is one that, in its arrangements and character, most nearly resembles it. It maintains that a prison is not a fit place for a child ; that its discipline is not adapted to his habits or position, and will seldom make him better ; that he is not the subject of punishment as such, and does not deserve to be confined permanently ; that large numbers congregated together in one building necessitate routine, prevent teachers from obtaining any real hold of the individual, and foster habits and feelings eminently opposed to any true moral training. It declares that children, and especially girls, need, most of all, a home ; that their organization, their dispositions, their affections, their habits, their prospects and duties in life, all emphatically require that they should have the retirement, the sympathies, the occupations, and the discipline, of a home. They should have some one whom they can at least call mother ; they should have some place which should look at least somewhat like a home. It would be interesting, and might not be wholly useless, to enter more fully into this important subject, and to show what has been done at Hamburg, Berlin, Mettray, and Red Hill ; to describe the principles of action and the methods of procedure on which these celebrated establishments are conducted ; and especially to hold up to your love and admiration the noble-hearted individuals, whose efforts in behalf of unfortunate children have been so disinterested, and so full of success. But neither the design nor the limitations of this address permit such an indulgence. We have time only to refer, as we have done already, in a general way, to the principles and results which led us to adopt the plan of a home in preference to any other.

Having matured our system, and recommended it to the Legislature of the Commonwealth, which sanctioned it with singular unanimity, we at once set about to look for a place where we might carry it out. And I think we may be allowed to congratulate you and ourselves that we have finally succeeded in obtaining one combining so many advantages as this. It is central in its position, easy of access, and sufficiently retired. A plateau of level ground, of about twenty-two acres in extent, admirably fitted for the erection of buildings, covered with verdure and shaded by trees and shrubs, looks down upon a rich and lovely valley, dotted all over with majestic elms and intersected by a quiet stream meandering through it. On the rising ground beyond, the picturesque village of Lancaster, backed by a noble range of hills and mountains, adds variety and dignity to the landscape; while from its bosom rise conspicuous the church and the schoolhouse, as if to remind us all of the two chief agents upon which we are to rely in all our efforts at reformation. A healthier or more beautiful home, certainly, it is not permitted to the most fortunate son of Massachusetts to know. The soil is light, easy of cultivation, and abundantly supplied with natural springs. In addition, a large artificial supply from a never-failing source, about a mile off, is carried over the buildings, and might be poured upon their roofs, the head being one hundred and eight feet above the level of the plain on which we now stand. The entire purchase contains about one hundred acres; the lot being twelve hundred feet on the main road in front of us, and running down with equal width to Stillriver, in the valley behind us. The cost of the land was ten thousand seven hundred and twenty-five dollars, including one brick and two wooden dwelling-houses, with their appurtenances; the former erected more than a hundred years ago, and bearing in all its parts the marks of solidity and past magnificence. The wooden houses we



found admirably well adapted, both in position and design, to our objects. We have consequently prepared one of them for our Superintendent, and the other for our Farmer, at no further expense than a little paper and paint. The brick dwelling-house, we soon ascertained, would answer for the residence of children ; and we have therefore made such alterations in its internal structure as would adapt it to the general plans we had adopted, — the principal interior walls and divisions remaining as they were. As now altered, it is considered to be as substantial and convenient a building as any we could contrive. We have also erected two new brick edifices, in which we have attempted to make all the arrangements and conveniences for children which would promote the great purpose we have in view. Each of these dwelling-houses is intended to accommodate thirty girls, with their matron and assistant ; and each contains a parlor, dining-room, kitchen, laundry, schoolroom, and workroom, on the first floor ; a hospital, a dormitory, two chambers for the matron and assistant and sixteen for girls, on the second ; and a playroom and two chambers in the attic. Each, also, is fitted up with bathing-rooms, water-closets, sinks, and other conveniences ; is thoroughly ventilated ; and is heated by a furnace in the cellar. All the work has been done by the day, and is believed to have been faithfully executed. Our object has been to erect buildings as nearly resembling a substantial and good-sized dwelling-house as possible ; and all our arrangements have been made with a view of carrying out this idea. In each of these buildings is to be gathered a household, — a matron and assistant and thirty children of different ages, from seven to sixteen. They are to constitute one family, to be employed in the various occupations and duties of a family, and to receive and reciprocate the affectionate love, the careful discipline, and the wholesome instructions, that the members of a family should always

receive and reciprocate. Each family is to be by itself, to have peculiar and special relations to its head, and to be no further connected with any of its neighbors, and maintain no more intimate intercourse with them, than shall be thought wise and best by the Superintendent, or than is seen to exist in common life between families that reside near each other. We have erected no division fences, and provided no iron or other guards, for restraint or coercion : for we desired, in the first instance, to present no features to the inmates here which were not usual in a dwelling-house ; and we preferred that experience alone should suggest to the Trustees what provision, if any, in these respects, was essential. Moral power, such as is possessed by a large moral nature, deeply versed in the habits and dispositions of children, and endowed with sound judgment and discrimination, is the great instrument by which the welfare and success of this Institution are to be obtained ; and we have thought it would be well that the several instructors should understand at once that they must rely upon it. If they possess it, they will doubtless have full opportunity for its exercise ; and we hope and pray that the limited number of children that will be intrusted to the care of each, combined with the more natural and intimate relations established here, and the large opportunities for the exercise of direct, personal influence, will enable them to effect more desirable results than can be effected under any system of routine and restraint. But it is well to remember, always, that an able and accomplished teacher is better than any system whatever ; and that no system, be it ever so well adapted to the objects sought to be accomplished, will work well under an ignorant or weak one.

And here we hope to be pardoned if we make a single suggestion, for it is one of great importance in its bearing upon the welfare of schools of reform ; and upon the degree

of attention paid to it has undoubtedly depended, as much as upon any thing else, their success or failure. It relates to the general idea which shall be entertained of the character and propensities of the children who are to be the inmates of this institution. Now, we hope the teachers here will run into no extreme views upon this subject. We trust they will not consider the children under their charge, on the one hand, as reprobates, steeped in guilt beyond all others, the incarnation of the very spirit of evil; nor, on the other, as the mere victims of injustice and misfortune, or as largely endowed with that poetic temperament, or those delicate and nicely adjusted moral sensibilities, which are attributed to them in so many of the novels of the day. These children, depend upon it, are neither devils nor angels, but human beings with flesh and blood like ourselves; ay, and with the same intellectual and moral natures; subject to the like passions, follies, and temptations, and capable of the same self-control, education, and improvement.. And we are to treat them as human beings, and to expect the same results from fidelity, care, and faith, making due allowance for differences in previous circumstances, and the same consequences from ignorance, carelessness, over-indulgence, undue severity, and mismanagement, that we experience in common cases. Let us remember, too, that children are not mere machines; that we cannot make them what we desire by any contrivance of ours; that they have a will of their own, given to them by God as the great sign-manual of their humanity, which may, and has a natural right to, resist and withstand all our endeavors; and, therefore, that it is essential that this will should be brought into relation with, and subjection to, the will and laws of God. Unless a child has a consciousness, in his inmost soul, of obligation and responsibility to something higher and better than himself, to the God who made him, depend upon it, you have done nothing for his reformation.

How this is to be brought about, by what training the moral nature is to be developed and matured, is not for me to say. I only declare that it must be done, or nothing is done.

And now, Gentlemen Trustees, having finished the work given us to do, we willingly surrender it into your hands. We have been permitted only to bring together the outside framework of an institution: it will be your privilege to perfect its parts, and make them instinct with life. It has been our duty to select a site, to provide buildings, and devise a system of organization: it will be yours to make of them a noble charity, that shall be an honor to this Commonwealth, and a blessing to hundreds of her unfortunate children. This may be a difficult, but it is an honorable, task. Great wisdom, experience, patience, and fidelity, undoubtedly, will be required to perform it well. It is not for us to speak to you in reference to the motives or the principles which should govern your conduct in managing this establishment. You have, very properly, selected one to address you on this occasion, who, from his position and known ability, is far better fitted than we are to give you words of instruction and encouragement. We only desire to assure you of our entire confidence in your zeal and ability in this good cause, and to proffer to you, in all sincerity, our hearty wishes and prayers for your guidance and success.

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After a hymn sung by the choirs of the two churches of Lancaster, and music by the band, the Hon. GEORGE S. BOUTWELL delivered the following address: —



## ADDRESS BY GEORGE S. BOUTWELL.

IN man's limited view, the moral world presents a sad contrast to the natural. The natural world is harmonious in all its parts; but the moral world is the theatre of disturbing and conflicting forces, whose laws the finite mind cannot comprehend. The majesty and uniformity of the planetary revolutions, which bring day and night, summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, know no change. Worlds and systems of worlds are guided by a law of the Infinite Mind; and so, through unnumbered years and myriads of years, birth and death, creation and decay, decrees whose fixedness enables finite minds to predict the future, and rules whose elasticity is seen in a never-ending variety of nature, all alike prove that the sin of disobedience is upon man alone.

But if man only, of all the varied creations of earth, may fall from his high estate, so to him only is given the power to rise again, and feebly, yet with faith, advance towards the Divine Excellence. This, then, is the great thought of the occasion, to be accepted by the hearts and illustrated in the lives of all. The fallen may be raised up, the exposed may be shielded, the wanderers may be called home, or else this house is built upon the sand, and doomed to fall when the rains shall descend, the floods come, and the winds blow. The returning autumn, with its harvest of sustenance and wealth, bids us contemplate again the mystery and harmony of the natural world. The tree and the herb produce seed, and the seed again produces the tree and the herb, each after its kind. There is a continued production and reproduction, but of responsibility there is none. As there is no intelligent violation of law, there is no accountability. Man, however, is an intelligent, dependent, fallible, and, of course,

responsible being. He is responsible for himself, responsible in some degree for his fellow-man. There is not a chapter in the history of the human race, nor a day of its experience, which does not show that the individual members are dependent upon, and responsible to, each other. This great fact, of six thousand years' duration, at once presents to us the necessity for government, and defines the limits of its powers and duties. Government, then, is a union of all for the protection and welfare of each. This definition presents in its principles and statement, the highest form of human government, — a form not yet perfectly realized on earth. It sets forth rather what government ought to be, than what it has been or is. Too often historical governments, and living governments even, may be defined as a union of all for the oppression of many and the benefit of a few. The reason of men has not often been consulted in their formation ; and the interests and principles of the masses have usually been disregarded in their administration.

A true government is at once representative, patriarchal, and paternal. In the path of duty for this day and this occasion, we shall consider the last-named quality only, — governments should be paternal. The paternal government is devoted to the elevation and improvement of its members, with no ulterior motive except the necessary results of internal purity and strength. Every government is in some degree, no doubt, paternal. Nor are those governments to be regarded as eminently so, where the people are most controlled in their private, personal affairs. These are mere despotisms ; and despotism is not a just nor necessary element of the paternal relation. That government is most truly paternal which does most to enable its citizens or subjects to regulate their own conduct and determine their relations to others. In the midst of general darkness, the

paternal element of government has been a light to the human race. It modified the patriarchal slavery of the Hebrews, relieved the iron rule of Sparta, made European feudalism the hope of civilization in the Dark Ages, and the basis of its coming glories in the near future ; and it now leads men to look with toleration upon the despotism of Russia, and with kindness upon the simplicity and arrogance of the Celestial Empire.

We complain, justly enough, that the world is governed too much ; and yet, in a great degree, we neglect the means by which the proper relations of society could be preserved, and the world be governed less. In what works are the so-called Christian governments principally engaged ? Are they not seeking, by artifice, diplomacy, and war, to extend national boundaries, preserve national honor, or enforce nice distinctions against the timid and weak ? Yet it is plain that a nation is powerful according to the character of the living elements of which it is composed. If it is disorganized morally, uncultivated in intellect, ignorant, indolent, or wasteful in its labor, its claims to greatness are destitute of solid foundation, and it must finally yield to those that have sought and gained power by the elevation of the individual as the element of the nation.

That nation, then, is wise, and destined to become truly great, which cultivates the best elements of individual life and character. It is not enough to read the parable of the lost sheep and of the ninety and nine that went not astray, and then say, " Even so, it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish," while the means of salvation, as regards the life of this world merely, are very generally neglected. Such neglect is followed by error and crime ; and error and crime are followed by judgment not always tempered with mercy.

While human governments debate questions of war and

peace, of trade and revenue, of annexations with ceremony, and appropriations of territory without ceremony, who shall answer to the Governor and Judge of all for the neglect, indifference, and oppression which beget and foster the delinquencies of childhood, and harden the criminals of adult life?

And who shall answer for those distinctions of caste and systems of labor which so degrade and famish masses of human beings, that the divine miracle of the feeding of the five thousand must be multiplied many times over before the truths of nature or revelation can be received into teachable minds or susceptible hearts? And who shall answer for the hereditary poverty, ignorance, and crime which constitute a marked feature of English life, and are distinctly visible upon the face of American civilization? These questions may point with sufficient distinctness to the sources of the evils enumerated; but we are not to assume that mere human governments can furnish an adequate and complete remedy. Yet this admitted inability to do every thing is no excuse for neglecting those things which are plainly within their power. Taking upon themselves the parental character, forgetting that they have wrongs to avenge, and seeking reformation through kindness, criminals and the causes of crime will diminish, if they do not disappear. This is the responsibility of the nations, and the claim now made upon them. Individual civilization and refinement have always been in advance of national; and national character is the mirrored image of the individual characters, not excepting the humblest, of which the nation is composed. Each foot of the ocean's surface has, in its fluidity or density or position, something of the quality or power of every drop of water which rests or moves in the depths of the sea. What is called national character is the face of the great society beneath; and, as that society in its elements is elevated or



debased, so will the national character rise or fall in the estimation of all just men of the living, and upon the page of impartial history. Government, which is the organized expression of the will of society, ought always to represent the best elements of which society is composed; and it ought, therefore, to combat error and wrong, and seek to inaugurate labor, justice, and truth, as the elements of stability, growth, and power. It must accept as its principles of action the best rules of conduct in individuals. The man who avenges his personal wrongs by personal attacks or vindictive retaliation, must sacrifice in some measure the sympathy of the wise, the humane, and the good. So the nation which avenges real or fancied wrongs crushes out the elements of humanity and a higher life, which, properly cultivated, might lead an erring mortal to virtue and peace. The proper object of punishment is not vengeance, but the public safety and the reformation of the criminal. Indeed, we may say that the sole object of punishment is the reformation of the criminal; for there can be no safety to the public while the criminal is unreformed. The punishment of the prison must from its nature be temporary: perpetual confinement can be meted out to a few great crimes only. If, then, the result of punishment be vengeance, and not reformation, the last state of society is worse than its first. The prison must stand a sad monument of the want of true paternal government in the family and the State; but when it becomes the receptacle merely of the criminal, and all ideas of reformation are banished from the hearts of convicts and the minds of keepers, its influence is evil, and only evil continually.

Vice, driven from the presence of virtue, with no hope of reformation or of restoration to society, begets vice, and becomes daily more and more loathsome. Misery is so universal that some share falls to the lot of all; but that misery

whose depths cannot be sounded, whose heights cannot be scaled, is the fortune of the prison-convict only, who has no hope of reformation to virtue or of restoration to the world. His is the only misery that is unrelieved ; his is the only burden that is too great to be borne. To him the foliage of the tree, the murmur of the brook, the mirror of the quiet lake, or the thunder of the heaving ocean, would be equally acceptable. His separation from nature is no less burdensome than his separation from man. The heart sinks, the spirit turns with a consuming fire upon itself, the soul is in despair ; the mind is first nerved and desperate, then wandering and savage, then idiotic, and finally goes out in death. Governments cannot often afford to protect themselves, or to avenge themselves, at such a cost. There may be great crimes on which such awful penalties should be visited ; but, for the honor of the race, let them be few.

We may err in our ideas of the true relations of the prison to the prisoner. We call a prison good or bad when we see its walls, cells, workshops, its means of security, and points of observation. These are very well. They are something ; but they are not all. We might so judge a hospital for the sick ; and we did once so judge an asylum for the insane.

But what to the sick man are walls of wood, brick, granite, or marble ? What are towers and turrets, what are wards, halls, and verandas, if withal he is not cheered and sustained by the sympathizing heart and helping hand ? And similar preparations furnish for the insane personal security and physical comfort ; but can they —

“ Minister to a mind diseased ;  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow ;  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain ? ”

And it may be that the old almshouse at Philadelphia, which was nearly destitute of material aids, and had only superin-

tendent, matrons, and assistants, was, all in all, the best insane asylum in America.

We cannot neglect the claims of security, discipline, and labor, in the erection of jails and prisons ; but to acknowledge these merely will never produce the proper fruit of punishment, — reformation. Indeed, walls of stone, gates of iron, bolts, locks, and armed sentinels, though essential to security, without which there could be neither punishment nor reformation, are in themselves barriers rather than helps to moral progress. Standing outside, we cannot say what should be done either in the insane hospital or the prison ; but we can deduce from the experience of modern times a safe rule for general conduct. In the insane hospital, the patient is to be treated as though he were sane ; and, in the jail, the prisoner is to be treated, as nearly as may be, as though he were virtuous. This rule, especially as much of it as applies to the prisoner, may be recklessness to some, to others folly, to others sin.

“The court awards it, and the law doth give it,” is no doubt the essence and strength of governmental justice in the sentence decreed ; but it would be a sad calamity if there were no escape from its literal fulfilment. And let no one borrow the words of Portia to the Jew, and say to the State, —

“Nor cut thou less nor more,  
But just a pound of flesh.”

As the criminal staggers beneath the accumulated weight of his sin and its penalty, he should feel that the State is not only just in the language of its law, but merciful in its administration ; that the government is, in truth, paternal. This feeling inspires confidence and hope ; and without these there can be no reformation. And, following this thought, we are led to say, it is a sad and mischievous public delusion that the pardoning power is useless or pernicious. It is a

*delusion* ; for it is the only means by which the State mingles mercy with its justice, — the means by which the better sentiments of the prison are marshalled in favor of order, of law, of progress. It is a *public delusion* : for it has infected not only the masses of society, who know little of what is going on in courts and prisons, but its influence is observed upon the bench and in the bar, especially among those who are accustomed to prosecute and try criminals. This is not strange, nor shall it be a subject of complaint : but we must not always look upon the prisoner as a criminal, and continually disregard his claims as a man. It is not often easy, nor always possible, to make the proper distinction between the *character* and *condition* of the prisoner. But the prison, strange as it may seem, follows the general law of life. It has its public sentiment, its classes, its leading minds, as well as the university or the State ; it has its men of mark, either good or bad, as well as congress or parliament. As the family, the church, or the school, is the reflection of the best face of society, so the prison is the reflection of the worst face of society. But it nevertheless is society, and follows its laws with as much fidelity as the world at large.

It is said that Abbé Fissiaux, the head of the colony of Marseilles, when visiting Mettray, a kind of reform school at which boys under sixteen years of age, who have committed offences without discernment, are sent, asked the colonists to point out to him the three best boys. The looks of the whole body immediately designated three young persons whose conduct had been irreproachable to an exceptional degree. He then applied a more delicate test. "Point out to me," said he, "the worst boy." All the children remained motionless, and made no sign ; but one little urchin came forward with a pitiful air, and said, in a very low tone, "*It is me.*" Such were the public sentiment and sense of



honor even in a reform school. This frankness in the lad was followed by reformation ; and he became in after-years a good soldier, — the life anticipated for many members of the institution.

The pardoning power is not needed in reform and industrial schools, where the managers have discretionary authority ; but it is quite essential to the discipline of the prison to let the light of hope into the prisoner's heart. Not that all are to enjoy the benefits of executive clemency, — by no means : only the most worthy and promising are to be thus favored. But, for many years, the Massachusetts Prison has been improved and elevated in its tone and sentiment above what it would have been ; while, as it is believed, over ninety per cent. of the convicts thus discharged have conducted themselves well. If the prisoner's conduct has not been, upon the whole, reasonably good, and for a long time irreproachable, he has no chance for clemency ; and whatever may be his conduct, and whatever may be the hopes inspired, he should not be allowed to pass without the prison walls until a friend, labor, and a home, are secured for him. And the exercise of the pardoning power, if it anticipate the expiration of the legal sentence but a month, a week, or a day even, may change the whole subsequent life. Men, criminals, convicts, are not insensible to kindness ; and when the government shortens the legal sentence, which is usually their measure of justice in the case, they feel an additional obligation to so behave as to bring no discredit upon a power which has been a source of inestimable joy to them. And prisoners thus discharged have often gone forth with a feeling that the hopes of many whom they had left behind were centred in them.

Mr. Charles Forster, of Charlestown, says in a letter to me, " I have been connected with the Massachusetts State Prison for a period of thirty-eight years, and have always felt a strong

interest in the improvement, welfare, and happiness of the unfortunate men confined within its walls. I am conversant with many touching cases of deep and heartfelt gratitude for kindly acts and sympathy bestowed upon them, both during and subsequent to their imprisonment." And the same gentleman says further, "I think that the proportion of persons discharged from prison by executive clemency, who have subsequently been convicted of penal offences, is very small indeed." To some, whose imaginations have pictured a broad waste or deep gulf between themselves and the prisoner class, these may seem strange words; but there is no mystery in this language to those who have listened to individual cases of crime and punishment. Men are tried and convicted of crimes according to rules and definitions which are necessarily arbitrary and technical; but the moral character of criminals is not very well defined by the rules and definitions which have been applied to their respective cases. Our prisons contain men who are great and professional criminals, — men who advisedly follow a life of crime themselves, and deliberately educate generation after generation to a career of infamy and vice. As a general thing, mercy to such men would be unpardonable folly. Of them I do not now speak. But there is another class, who are involved in guilt and its punishment through the defects of early education, the misfortune of orphanage, accident, sudden temptation, or the influence of evil companionship in youth.

The field from which this class is gathered is an extensive one, and its outer limits are near to every hearthstone. To all these, prison life, unless it is relieved by a hope of restoration to the world at the hand of mercy, is the school of vice, and a certain preparation for a career of crime. As a matter of fact, this class does furnish recruits to supply the places of the hardened villains who annually die, or perma-

nently forsake the abodes of civilized men. What hope can there be for a young man who remains in prison until the last day of his sentence is measured by the sun in his course, and then passes into the world, with the mark of disgrace and the mantle of shame upon him, to the society of the companions by whose influence he first fell? For such a one there can be no hope. And be it always remembered, that there are those without the prison walls, as well as many within, who resist every effort to bring the wanderers back to obedience and right. I was present at the prison in Charlestown when the model of a bank-lock was taken from a young man whose term had nearly expired. The model was cut in wood, after a plan drawn upon sand-paper by an experienced criminal, then recently convicted. This old offender was so familiar with the lock, that he was able to reproduce all its parts from memory alone. This fact shows the influence that may be exerted, even in prison, upon the characters of the young and less vicious. Now, can any doubt that these classes, as classes, ought to be separated? Nor let the question be met by the old statement, that all communication between prisoners should be cut off. Humanity cannot defend, as a permanent system, the plan which shuts up the criminal, unless he is a murderer, from the light of the human countenance. Such penalties foster crimes, whose roots take hold of the State itself.

The result of the exercise of the pardoning power is believed to have been, upon the whole, satisfactory. This is the concurrent testimony of officers and others whose opinions are entitled to weight. Permit the statement of a single case, to which many similar ones might be added. In a remote State of the West there is a respectable and successful farmer who was once sentenced to the penitentiary for life. His crime was committed in a moment of desperation, produced by the contrast between a state of abject

poverty in a strange land at the age of twenty-three, and the recollection of childhood and youth passed beneath the parental roof, surrounded by the comforts and conveniences of the well-educated and well-conditioned classes of English society. This, it is true, was a peculiar case. It was marked in the circumstances and enormity of the crime, and marked in the subsequent good conduct of the prisoner. But can any one object, that, after ten years' imprisonment, this man was allowed to try his fortunes once more among his fellow-men? Are there those who would have had no faith in his uninterrupted good conduct; in the abundant evidence of complete reformation; in the fact, that, in prison and poverty and disgrace, he had allied to him friends of name and fortune and Christian virtues, who were ready to aid him in his good resolutions? If any such there be, let them visit the solitary cell of the despairing convict, whose crime is so great that executive clemency fears to approach it. Crime and despair have made the features appalling; all the worst passions of our nature riot together in the temple dedicated to the living God; and the death of the body is almost certainly to be preceded by madness, insanity, and idiocy of the mind. Or, if any think that this person escaped with too light an expiation for so great a crime, let them recall the incident of the youth who was questioned because he looked with fond affection into the babbling face of the running brook, and, apologizing, as it were, in reply, said, "Oh, yes, it is very beautiful, and especially to me, who have seen no water for four years beside what I have had to drink!"

Nor is it assumed, in all that is said upon this subject, that the laws are severe, or that the judicial administration of them is not characterized by justice and mercy. In the ordinary course of affairs, the pardoning power is not resorted to for the correction of any error or injustice of the courts;



but it is the means by which the State tempers its justice with mercy ; and, if the penalties for crime were less than they are, the necessity for the exercise of this power would still remain. It assumes that the object of the penal law is reformation ; and if this object, in some cases, can be attained by the exercise of the pardoning power, while the rigid execution of the sentence would leave the criminal, as it usually will, still hardened and unrepenting, is it not wise for the State to benefit itself, and save the prisoner, by opening the prison-doors, and inviting the convict to a life of industry and virtue ? And let it never be forgotten, though it is the lowest view which can be taken of crime and prisons, that the criminal class is the most expensive class of society. In general, it is a non-producing class, and, whether in prison or out, is a heavy burden upon the public. The mere interest of the money now expended in prisons of approved structure, is, for each cell, equal annually to the net income of a laboring man ; and professional thieves, when at large, often gather by their art, and expend in profligacy, many thousand dollars a year. And here we see how much wiser it is, in an economical point of view, to save the child, or reform the man, than to allow the adult criminal to go at large, or provide for his safe-keeping at the expense of the State.

Under the influence of the pardoning power, wisely executed, the Commonwealth becomes a family, whose law is the law of kindness. It is the paternal element of government applied to a class of people, who, by every process of reasoning, would be found least susceptible to its influence. It is the great power of the State, both in the wisdom required for its judicious exercise, and in the beneficial results to which it may lead. Men may desire office for its emoluments in money or fame ; they may seek it in a spirit of rivalry or for personal pride, or for the opportunity it brings to reward friends and punish enemies : but all these

are poor and paltry compared with the divine privilege, exercised always in reference to the public welfare, of elevating the prisoner to the companionship of men, and cheering him with words of encouragement on his entrance anew to the duties of life.

Yet think not that the prison is a reformatory institution : far from it. If the prison should be left to the influence of legitimate prison discipline merely, it is doubtful whether the sum of improvement would equal the total of degradation. This may be said of the best prisons of America, of New England. The prison usually contains every class, from the hardened convict, incarcerated for housebreaking, robbery, or murder, to the youth who expiates his first offence, committed under the influence of evil companions, or sudden temptation. The contact of these two persons must be injurious to one of them, without in any degree improving the other. Therefore the prison, considered without reference to the elevating influence of the pardoning power, has but little ability to reform the bad, and yet possesses a sad tendency to debase the comparatively good.

We miss, too, in the prison, another essential element of a reformatory institution. Reformation in individual cases may take place under the most adverse circumstances ; but an institution cannot be called reformatory, unless its prevailing moral sentiment is actively, vigorously, and always, on the side of progress and virtue. This moral influence must proceed from the officers of the institution ; but it should be increased and strengthened by the sympathy and support of the inmates. This can hardly be expected of the prison. The number of adult persons, experienced in crime and hardened by its penalties, is usually so large, that the moral sentiment of the officers, and the weak resolutions of the small class of prisoners, who, under favorable circumstances, might be saved, are insufficient to give a healthy tone to the

whole institution. The prison is a battle-field of vice and virtue, with the advantage of position and numbers on the side of vice. Indeed, there can hardly be a worse place for the young or the inexperienced in crime. This is the testimony of reason and of all experience; yet the public mind is slow to accept the remedy for the evil. It is a privilege to believe that the worst scenes of prison life are not found in the United States. Consider this case, reported in an English journal, — “The Ragged-School Magazine:” —

“D. F., aged about fourteen. Mother dead several years; father a drunkard, and deserted him about three years ago. Has since lived as he best could, — sometimes going errands, sometimes begging and thieving. Slept in lodging-houses when he had money; but very often walked the streets at night, or lay under arches or doorsteps. Has only one brother: he lives by thieving. Does not know where he is; has no other friend that he knows; never learnt to read; was badly off; picked a handkerchief out of a gentleman’s pocket, and was caught by a policeman; sent to Giltspur-street Prison; was fed on bread and water; instructed every day by chaplain and schoolmaster; much impressed with what the chaplain said; felt anxious to do better; behaved well in prison; *was well flogged the morning he left; back bruised, but not quite bleeding*; was then turned into the street, ragged, barefooted, friendless, homeless, penniless; walked about the streets till afternoon, when he received a penny from a gentleman to buy a loaf; met, next day, some expert thieves in the Minories; went along with them, and continues in a course of vagrancy and crime.”

And what else could have been expected? The government, having sown tares, had no right to gather wheat. Yet, had this boy been provided with a home, either in a family or a reform school, with sufficient labor, and proper moral and intellectual culture, he might have been saved. Of the three

thousand persons annually in prison at Newgate, four hundred are less than sixteen years of age ; and twenty thousand children and youth, under seventeen years of age, yearly pass through the prisons of England. "Many of the juvenile prisoners," it is said, "have been frequently in prison, and are very hardened : some, from nine to eleven, have been in prison repeatedly, and have very little fear of it."

The officers of the Liverpool Borough Jail are united in the opinion, that, when a boy comes once, he is almost certain to come again and again, until he is transported. And, of every one hundred young persons discharged from the principal prisons of Paris, seventy-five are in the custody of the law within the next three months. A professed thief said to the Rev. Mr. Clay, of England, "I am convinced of this, having too bitterly experienced it, that communication in a prison has brought thousands to ruin : I speak not of boys only, but of men and women also." And Mr. Hill, Recorder of Birmingham, says of the sentences imposed in his court, "We are compelled to carry into operation an ignorant and vengeful system, which augments to a fearful extent the very evils it was framed to correct." A few years ago, there was a lad in a New-England prison, whose experience is a pertinent illustration of the evil we are now considering. His father, a resident of a city, died while the boy was in infancy. He, however, soon passed beyond the control of his mother, and, at an early age, was selected by a brace of thieves, who petted, caressed, and humored him, until he was completely subject to their will. He was then made useful to them in their profession ; but at last they were all arrested while engaged in robbing a store, — the boy being within the building, and the men stationed as sentinels without. In this case, the discretion of the court, which distinguished in the sentence between the hardened villains and the youth, was inadequate to the emergency. The child, unfit for the



prison, and sure to be contaminated by it, ought to have been sent to a house of reformation, a reform school, or, perhaps better than either, to the custody of a well-regulated, industrious family. Now, in such cases, the distinction which the law, judicially administered, does not make and cannot make, must be made by the Executive in the wise exercise of the pardoning power. But this power, in the nature of things, has its limits ; and on one side it is limited to those who have been convicted of crime.

At this point, we may see how faulty, and yet how constantly improving, has been the administration of the criminal law. First, we have the prison without the pardoning power, except in cases of mal-administration of the law, — a receptacle of the bad and good, where the former are not improved, and the latter are hurried rapidly on in the path of degradation and crime. Then we have the prison under the influence of the pardoning power, more or less wisely administered, but, in its best form, able only to arrest and counteract partially the tendencies to evil. Next, from the imperfections of this system, an advancing civilization has evoked the Reform School, which gathers in the young criminals and viciously inclined youth, and prepares them, by labor, and culture of the mind and heart, to resist the temptations of life. But this institution seems to wait, though it may not always in reality do so, until the candidate is actually a criminal.

Hence the necessity which calls us to-day to consider the means adopted elsewhere, and the means now to be employed here, to save the young and exposed from the dangers which surround them.

Passing then in review, ladies and gentlemen, the thoughts which have been presented, I deduce from them for your assent and support, if so it please you, the following propositions as the basis of what I have yet to say :—



I. Government, in the prevention and punishment of crime, should be paternal.

II. The object of punishment should be reformation, and not revenge.

III. The law of reformation, in the State as in the family, is the law of kindness.

IV. As criminals vary in age and in experience as criminals, so should their treatment vary.

V. Prisons and jails are not, in their foundation and management, reformatory institutions, and only become so through influences not necessarily nor ordinarily acting upon them.

VI. As prisons and jails deter from crime through fear only ; exert very little moral influence upon the youth of either sex ; and fail in many respects, and in a majority of cases, as reformatory institutions, — we ought to avail ourselves of any new agency which promises success.

Influenced, as we may reasonably suppose, by these or kindred sentiments, and aided by the noblest exhibitions of private benevolence, the State has here founded a school for the prevention of crime. As we have everywhere among us schools whose *leading* object is the development of the intellect, so we now dedicate a school whose *leading* object is the development of the affections as the basis of the cardinal virtues of life.

The design of this Institution is so well expressed by the Trustees, that it is a favor to us all for me to read the first chapter of the By-Laws, which, by the consent of the Governor and Council, have been established:—

“The intention of the State Government, and of the benevolent individuals who have contributed to the establishment of this Institution, is to secure a *home* and a *school* for such girls as may be presented to the magistrates of the

State, appointed for that purpose, as vagrants, perversely obstinate, deprived of the control and culture of their natural guardians, or guilty of petty offences, and exposed to a life of crime and wretchedness.

“For such young persons it is proposed to provide, not a prison for their restraint and correction, but a family school, where, under the firm but kind discipline of a judicious home, they shall be carefully instructed in all the branches of a good education; their moral affections be developed and cultivated by the example and affectionate care of one who shall hold the relation of a mother to them; be instructed in useful and appropriate forms of female industry; and, in short, be fitted to become virtuous and happy members of society, and to take respectable positions in such relations in life as Providence shall hereafter mark out for them.

“It is to be distinctly understood, that the Institution is not to be considered a *place of punishment*, or its subjects as criminals. It is to be an inviting refuge, into which the exposed may be gathered to be saved from a course which would inevitably end in penal confinement, irretrievable ruin, or hopeless degradation.

“The inmates are to be considered hopeful and promising subjects of appropriate culture, and to be instructed and watched over with the care and kindness which their peculiar exposures demand, and with the confidence which youth should ever inspire.

“The restraint and the discipline which will be necessary are to be such as would be appropriate in a Christian family or in a small boarding-school; and the ‘law of kindness’ should be written upon the heart of every officer of the Institution. The chief end to be obtained, in all the culture and discipline, is the proper development of the faculties and moral affections of the inmates, however they may have been heretofore neglected or perverted; and to teach them the

art, and aid them in securing the power, of self-government."

Under the influence of these sentiments, we pass, if possible, in the work of reformation, from the rigor of the prison to the innocent excitement and rivalry of the school, the comfort, confidence, and joys of home. This Institution assumes that crime, to some extent at least, is social, local, or hereditary, in its origin; that the career of hardened criminals often takes its rise in poverty, idleness, ignorance, orphanage, desertion, or intemperance of parents, evil example, or the indifference, scorn, and neglect of society. It assumes, also, that there is a period of life — childhood and youth — when these, the first indications of moral death, may be eradicated, or their influence for evil controlled. In this land of education, of liberty, of law, of labor, and religion, we may not easily imagine how universal the enumerated evils are in many portions of Europe. The existence of these evils is in some degree owing to institutions which favor a few, and oppress the masses; but it is also in a measure due to the fact that Europe is both old and multitudinous. America, though still young, is even now multitudinous. Hence, both here and there, crime is social and local. The truth of this statement is proportionate to the force of the causes in the respective countries.

We are assembled upon a sloping hillside, overlooking a quiet country village. Happy homes are embowered in living groves, whose summer foliage is emblematical of innocence, progress, and peace. We have here a social life, with natural impulses, cultivated worldly interests, moral and religious sentiments, all on the side of virtue. Crime here is not social. If it appear at all, it is segregated; and as the burning taper expires when placed at the centre of the spirit lamp's coiling sheet of flame, so vice and crime cannot thrive in the genial embrace of virtue.

Circumstances are here unfavorable to crime: it is never social; but sometimes, though not often, it is hereditary. A family for many generations seems to have a criminal tendency. Perhaps the members are not in any generation guilty of great crimes, but often of lesser ones; and are, moreover, in the daily practice of vices that give rise to suspicion, neglect, and reproach. Here together are associated, and made hereditary, poverty, ignorance, idleness, beggary, and vagrancy. Surely these instances are not common, probably not so common as they were in the last generation. But how is the boy or girl of such a family to rise above these circumstances, and throw off these weights? Occasionally one of great energy of character may do so; but, if the children of more fortunate classes can scarcely escape the influence of temporary evil example, how shall they who are born to a heritage of poverty, ignorance, and ever-present evil counsel and conduct under the guise of parental authority, pass to the position of intelligent, industrious, respectable members of society? Some external influence must be applied; by some means from without, the spell must be broken; the fatal succession of vicious homes must be interrupted. The family and home has here failed to discharge its duty to itself and to the State; and shall not the State do its duty to itself, by assuming the paternal relation under the guidance of that law of kindness, which we have seen effectual to control the insane, and melt the hardened criminal? But in cities we find vice, not only hereditary in families, but local and social; so that streets and squares are given up, as it were, to the idle and vicious, whose numbers and influence produce and perpetuate a public sentiment in support of their daily practices. This phase of life is not due to the fact that cities are wealthy, or that they are engaged in manufactures or commerce; but to the single fact that they are multitudinous, and their inhabi-



tants are therefore in daily contact with each other, while, in the country, individuals and families are comparatively isolated. Yet some may very well doubt whether such an Institution as this, with all the benign influences of home which we hope to see centred and diffusive here, will save a child of either sex, whose first years shall have been so unfavorable to a life of virtue.

The answer is plain : as in other reformatory institutions, there will be some successes and some failures. The failures will be reckoned as they were ; the successes will be a clear gain.

But investigation and trial will show a natural aptitude or instinct in children that will aid in their improvement and reformation. There has been in one of our public schools a lad, who, at the age of fourteen years, could not recall distinctly the circumstances of his life previous to the time when he was a newsboy in the city of New York. He was ignorant of father, mother, kindred, family name, and nation. At an early age, he travelled through the middle, southern, and south-western States, engaged in selling papers and trash literature ; and, for a time, he was employed by a showman to stand outside the tent, and describe and exaggerate the attractions within. When he was in his fourteenth year, he accepted the offer of a permanent home ; his chief object being, as he said, to obtain an education. " I have found," said he, " that a man cannot do much in this country unless he has some learning." This truth, simple, and resting upon a low view of education, may yet be of infinite value if accepted by those, who, even among us, are advancing to adult life without the preparation which our common schools are well fitted to furnish. And the case of this lad may be yet farther useful by showing how compensation is provided for evils and neglects in mental and moral relations, as well as in the physical and natural world. Though ignorant of



books, he was thoroughly and extensively acquainted with things, and consequently made rapid progress in the knowledge of signs; for they were immediately applied, and of course remembered. In a few months, he took a respectable position among lads of his age. The world had done for this boy what good schools do not always accomplish, — made him familiar with things before he was troubled with the signs which stand for them. There is an ignorance in manhood; an ignorance under the show of profound learning; an ignorance for which schools, academies, and colleges are often responsible; an ignorance that neither schools, academies, nor colleges can conceal from the humblest intellects; an ignorance of life and things as they are within the sphere of our own observation. From this most deplorable of all ignorance, this boy had escaped; and the light of learning illumined his mind, as the sun in his daily return reveals anew those forms of life, which, in ungenial spring and early summer, his rays had warmed into existence, and nourished and cherished in their progress towards perfection.

And, ladies and gentlemen, let us indulge the hope that the events of this day and the faith of this assembly will declare that it is possible to save the children of orphanage, intemperance, neglect, scorn, and ignorance, from many of the evils which surround them. And let it not be assumed and believed that the task of training and saving girls is less hopeful than similar labors in behalf of the other sex. It has been found true in Europe, and it is a prevailing opinion in this country, that, among adults, the reformation of females is more difficult than the reformation of males. But an analysis of this fact, assuming it to be true, will unfold qualities of female character that render it peculiarly easy to shield and save girls who are exposed to a life of crime; for, be it remembered, this Institution deals with mere

children who are exposed, but not yet lost. It differs, in this respect, from most institutions, although many include this class with others. And it may be well to remark, that every reformatory school in Europe, even those altogether penal, — as Parkhurst in England, and Mettray in France, — have had some measure of success. Eighty-nine per cent of the colons, or convicts, at Mettray have become respectable and useful; while, of the youth sent to the ordinary jails and prisons, seventy-five per cent are totally lost. It is not fair, therefore, to assume that this attempt will fail. The degree of success will depend upon circumstances and causes, to a great extent, within human control. There are, however, three elements of success so distinct, that they may well stand as the appropriate divisions of what remains for consideration. They are the right action of the government; the faithful conduct of superintendent, matrons, and assistants; the sympathy and aid of the people of the State in matters which do not admit of legislative interference.

The act of the legislature, though voluminous in its details, contemplates only this: A home for girls between seven and sixteen years of age, who are found “in circumstances of want and suffering, or of neglect, exposure, or abandonment, or of beggary.” The first idea of *home* precludes the possibility of the inmates being sent here as a punishment for crime; therefore they are neither adjudged nor actual criminals, but persons exposed to a vicious life. Secondly, the idea of home involves the necessity of reproducing the family relation, as circumstances may permit. Hence, the members of this Institution are to be divided into families; and over each a matron will preside, who is to be a kind, affectionate, discreet mother to the children.

And here, for once, in Massachusetts, a public institution has escaped the tyranny of bricks and mortar; and we are permitted to indulge the hope, that any future additions will

tend to make this spot a neighborhood of unostentatious cottages, quiet rural homes, rather than the seat of a vast edifice, which may provoke the wonder of the sight-seer, inflame local or State pride, but can never be an effectual, economical agency in the work of reformation. Every public institution has some great object. Architecture should bend itself to that object, and become its servant; and it must ever be deemed a mistake, when utility is sacrificed that art or fancy may have its way.

Reformation, if wrought by external influences, is the result of personal kindness: personal kindness can exist only where there is intimate personal acquaintance; this acquaintance is impossible in an institution of two, three, or five hundred inmates. But, in a family of ten, twenty, or thirty, this knowledge will exist and this kindness abound. Warm personal attachments will grow up in the family, and these attachments are likely to become safeguards of virtue.

Nor let the objection prevail that the expense is to be increased. It is not the purpose to set up an establishment and maintain it for a specific sum of money, but to provide thorough mental and moral training for the inmates. Make the work efficient, though it be limited to a small number, rather than inaugurate a magnificent failure.

The State has wisely provided, that the "Trustees shall cause the girls under their charge to be instructed in piety and morality, and in such branches of useful knowledge as shall be adapted to their age and capacity; they shall also be instructed in some regular course of labor, either mechanical, manufacturing, or horticultural, or a combination of these, and especially in such domestic and household labor and duties as shall be best suited to their age and strength, disposition, and capacity; also in such other arts, trades, and

employments as may seem to the Trustees best adapted to secure their reformation, amendment, and future benefit."

It is sometimes the bane of the poor that they do not work, and it is often equally the bane of the rich that they have nothing to do. The idle, both rich and poor, carry a weight of reproach that not all ought to bear. The disposition and the ability to labor are both the result of education; and why should the uneducated be better able to labor than to read Greek and Latin? Surely only that there are more teachers in one department than in the others; but a good teacher of labor may be as uncommon as a good teacher of Latin or Greek. There is a false, vicious, unmanly pride which leads our youth of both sexes to shun labor; and it is the business of the true teacher to extirpate this growth of a diseased civilization. And we could have no faith in this school, if it were not a school of industry as well as of morality, — a school in which the divine law of labor is to be observed equally with the laws of men. Industry is near to all the virtues. In this era, every branch of labor is an art, and sometimes it is necessary for the laborer to be both an artist and a scientific person. How great, then, the misfortune of those, whether rich or poor, who are uninstructed in the business of life! We should hardly know what judgment to pass upon a man of wealth who should entirely neglect the education of his children in schools; but the common indifference to industrial learning is not less reprehensible. Labor should be systematic; not constant, to be sure, but always to be reckoned as the great business of life, never to be avoided, never to cease.

Labor gives us a better knowledge of the fulness, magnificence, and glory of the divine blessing of creation. This lesson may be learned by the farmer in the wonderful growth of vegetation; by the artist in the powers of invention and taste of the human mind and soul; by the man



of science in the beauty of an insect or the order of a universe. The vision of the idle is limited. The ability to see may be improved by education as much as the ability to read, remember, or converse. With many people, not seeing is a habit. Near-sighted persons are generally those who declined to look at distant objects; and so nature, true to the most perfect rules of economy, refused to keep in order faculties that were entirely neglected. The laborer's recompense is not money, nor the accumulation of worldly goods chiefly; but it is in his increased ability to observe, appreciate, and enjoy the world with its beauties and blessings. Nor is labor, the penalty for sin, a punishment merely, but a divine means of reformation. It is therefore a moral discipline that all should submit to, and especially is it a means by which the youth here are to be prepared for the duties of life. But industry is not only near to all the virtues; it is itself a virtue, as idleness is a vice. The word *labor* is, of course, used in the broadest signification. Labor is any honest employment, or use of the head or hands, which brings good to ourselves, and consequently, though indirectly, brings good to our fellow-men.

The State has now furnished a home, reproduced, as far as practicable, the family relation, and provided for a class of neglected and exposed girls the means of mental, industrial, moral, and religious culture. The plan appears well; but its practical value depends upon the fidelity of its execution by the superintendent, matrons, and assistants. I venture to predict in advance, that the degree of success is mainly within their control. This is a school, they are the teachers; and they must bend to the rule which all true teachers willingly accept.

The teacher must be what he would have his pupils become. This was the standard of the great Teacher; this is the aim of all who desire to make education a matter



of reality and life, and not merely a knowledge of signs and forms. Here will be needed a spirit and principle of devotion which will be fruitful in humility, patience, earnestness, energy, good words and works for all. Here must be strictness, possibly sternness of discipline; but this is not incompatible with the qualities mentioned. It is a principle at Mettray to combine unbounded personal kindness with a rigid exclusion of personal indulgence.

This principle produces good results that are twofold in their influence. First, personal kindness in the teacher induces a reciprocal quality in the pupils. The habit of personal kindness, proceeding from right feelings, is a potent element of good in the family, the school, and the prison. Indeed, it is an element of good citizenship; and no one destitute of this quality ought to be intrusted with the education of children, or the punishment and reformation of criminals.

Secondly, the rigid exclusion of personal indulgence trains the inmates in the virtue of self-control. And may it not be forgotten that all apparent reformation must be hedged by this cardinal virtue of practical life? Otherwise the best formed expectations will fail; the highest hopes will be disappointed; and the life of these teachers, and the promise of the youth who may be gathered here, will be like the sun and the winds upon the desert, which bring neither refreshing showers nor fruitful harvests. Every form of labor requires faith. This labor requires faith in yourselves, and faith in others; — faith in yourselves, as teachers here, based upon your own knowledge of what you are and are to do; and faith in others upon the divine declaration that God breathed into man the breath of life, and he became a living soul, — not merely as the previous creations, possessed of animal life; but as a sentient, intellectual, and moral being, capable of a progressive, immortal existence.

" 'Tis nature's law  
 That none, the meanest of created things,  
 . . . . . Should exist  
 Divorced from good, — a spirit and pulse of good,  
 A life and soul, to every mode of being  
 Inseparably linked.

See, then, your only conflict is with men;  
 And your sole strife is to defend and teach  
 The unillumined, who, without such care,  
 Must dwindle."

And always, as in the beginning, the reliance of this School is upon the people of the Commonwealth, whose voice has spoken into existence another instrumentality to give eyes to the blind, ears to the deaf, a heart for the work of this life, and a hope for an hereafter, to those who from neglect and vicious example would soon pass the period of reformation. But may the people always bear in mind the indisputable truth, that schools for the criminal and the exposed yield not their perfect fruits in a day or a year! They must, if they will know whether the seed here planted produces a harvest, wait for the birth and growth of one generation, the decay and death of another. Yet these years of delay will not be years of uncertainty. The public faith will be strengthened continually by cases of reformation, usefulness, and virtue. But, whether these cases be few or many, let no one despond. The career of the criminal is often, in money and always in influence, the heaviest burden which an individual can impose upon society.

This is a School for girls; and we may properly appeal to the women of Massachusetts to do their duty to this Institution, and to the cause it represents. We can already see the second stage in the existence of many of those who are to be sent here; and there is good reason to fear, that the relation of mistress and servant among us is in some degree

destitute of those moral qualities that make the house a home for all who dwell beneath its roof. But, whether this fear be the voice of truth or the suggestion of prejudice, that woman shall not be held blameless, who, under the influence of indolence, pride, fashion, or avarice, shall neglect, abuse, or oppress the humblest of her sex who goes forth from these walls into the broad and dangerous path of life. But this day shall not leave the impression that they who are most interested in the elevation and refinement of female character are indifferent to the means employed, and the results which are to wait on them.

The greatest delineator of human character in this age says, as the images of neglected children pass before his vision, —

“There is not one of them — not one — but sows a harvest mankind *must* reap. From every seed of evil in this boy, a field of ruin is grown that shall be gathered in, and garnered up, and sown again in many places in the world, until regions are overspread with wickedness enough to raise the waters of another deluge. Open and unpunished murder in a city’s streets would be less guilty in its daily toleration than one such spectacle as this. There is not a father, by whose side, in his daily or nightly walk, these creatures pass; there is not a mother among all the ranks of loving mothers in this land; there is no one risen from the state of childhood, — but shall be responsible in his or her degree for this enormity. There is not a country throughout the earth on which it would not bring a curse. There is no religion upon earth that it would not deny; there is no people on earth that it would not put to shame.”

This Institution, then, in the true relation of things, is not the glory of the State, but its shame. It speaks of families, of schools, of the church, of the State, not yet educated to the discharge of their respective duties in the right way. But

it is the glory of the State as a visible effort to correct evils, atone for neglects, and compensate for wrongs. It comes to do, in part at least, what the family, the school, the press, the library, the sabbath, have not yet perfectly accomplished. As these agencies partially failed, so will this ; but as the law of progress exists for all, because perfection with us is unattainable, we may reasonably have faith in human improvement, and that the life of each succeeding generation shall unite, in ever-increasing proportions, the innocence of childhood with the wisdom of age.

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His Excellency HENRY J. GARDNER, Governor of the Commonwealth, was introduced, and expressed his gratification at witnessing the transfer of the buildings from the hands of the Commissioners, who had erected them, into those of the Trustees, who were to maintain the care of the Institution. After alluding to the generous private munificence which had contributed to the design, His Excellency said, "I should be derelict in my duty, did I not express an earnest and emphatic approbation of the manner in which the Commissioners have performed their duties ; and I sincerely believe that no commission in Massachusetts ever worked with greater diligence, more entire assiduity, and a greater regard to true economy, than the commission which has created the scene before me." And he expressed a feeling of equally confident assurance in the fidelity of the



Trustees, Superintendent, and Matrons, on whom now devolves the management of the Institution.

HON. JOHN H. WILKINS, in behalf of the Commissioners, officially notified His Excellency that the buildings were completed; whereupon the following proclamation was read:—

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

BY HIS EXCELLENCY HENRY J. GARDNER,

*Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*Whereas*, by the third section of an Act passed by the Legislature of this Commonwealth, on the twenty-first day of May, A.D. 1855, entitled, "An Act to establish a State Reform School for Girls," it is provided, that, "as soon as the Governor shall have been notified by the Commissioners appointed under certain resolves 'for the purchase of a site and the erection of buildings thereon for a State Reform School for Girls,' that said buildings are prepared for occupancy, he shall forthwith issue his proclamation, giving public notice of the fact."

And, by the fourth section of the Act aforesaid, it is provided, that, "after proclamation shall have been made, as provided in the third section of this Act, whenever any girl, above the age of seven and under the age of sixteen years, shall be brought by any constable, police officer, or other inhabitant of any city or town in this Commonwealth, before any Judge of Probate or Commissioner authorized and empowered to act in the case by the eighth section of this Act, upon the allegation or complaint that the said girl has committed any offence known to the laws of this Commonwealth, punishable by fine or imprisonment, other than such as may be punished by imprisonment for life; or that she is leading an idle, vagrant, or vicious life; or has been found in any street, highway, or public place within this Commonwealth, in circumstances of want and suffering, or of neglect, exposure, or abandonment, or of beggary, — it shall be the duty of the Judge or Commissioner aforesaid, before whom the said girl is brought, to issue a summons or order, in writing, addressed to the father of said girl, if he be living and resident within the town or city where the said girl was found, and, if not, then to her mother, if she be living and so resident; and, if there be no father or mother of said girl resident within said town or city, then addressed



to the lawful guardian of said girl if any there be resident within said town or city, or, if not, to the person with whom, according to the examination of the girl, and the testimony, if any, received by the Judge or Commissioner aforesaid, the said girl shall reside; and, if there be no person with whom she statedly resides, the Judge or Commissioner may, at his discretion, appoint some suitable person to act in her behalf, requiring him or her, as the case may be, to appear before him at such time and place as he shall in said summons or order appoint, and to show cause, if any there be, why the said girl shall not be committed to the Reform School for Girls, established by this Act."

*And, whereas* the Commissioners, appointed under the resolves above referred to, have given me notice that the buildings erected for said State Reform School for Girls, at Lancaster, in the County of Worcester, are now ready for the reception of inmates, —

*Now therefore*, I, HENRY J. GARDNER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do issue this proclamation, giving public notice to the Commissioners under the Act, magistrates and people of this Commonwealth, of the fact that said State Reform School for Girls, now called and known by authority of the Legislature as the State Industrial School, is prepared for occupancy.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Commonwealth, this twenty-seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-first.

HENRY J. GARDNER.

By His Excellency the Governor,

FRANCIS DEWITT,

*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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The Governor directed Hon. Francis DeWitt, Secretary of the Commonwealth, who was present, to cause the proclamation to be recorded and published in the usual manner. This official duty completed the formal ceremonies of the day.

The choir then sung an anthem; and Col. F. B. FAY, of Chelsea, who is both a Commissioner and

Trustee, then invited the guests to repair to tables, laid in another part of the grounds, where a collation had been provided by the ladies of Lancaster.

Accordingly the company proceeded, at about twenty minutes before four o'clock, to the tables, where they found a truly generous and excellent provision made for their refreshment by their fair entertainers. Before commencing, Col. FAY addressed the company as follows:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—A very pleasing duty has been assigned me,—to invite you to partake of a collation, which the ladies of Lancaster, by their well-known hospitality, have kindly and generously furnished for the present occasion. For this act alone, they would be justly entitled to our warmest acknowledgments and heartfelt gratitude. But this is not all. These good ladies seem never to be weary of well-doing. They are like “ol’ Virginny, dat neber tire.” I have spent most of my time here for some months; and I may say, that almost daily some of them have visited us,—watching our progress, speaking words of encouragement and approbation, and stimulating us to persevere; thus proving their interest in the object of this institution, and affording the strongest assurance that they will be faithful auxiliaries to our Superintendent and Matrons in the discharge of their several duties. Permit me to add, that the citizens of Lancaster in general, with a liberality which deserves all praise, have extended to the Commissioners every facility that we could desire; and while we have been indebted to many of them for special favors, which time will not permit me to enumerate, I should omit an act of justice were I to pass in silence the services of Jacob Fisher, Esq., whose valuable and important aid has been of so marked a character.

After a sufficient time spent in the discussion of the material repast, Col. FAY again called the company to order, and Mr. WILKINS proposed the first regular toast, as follows:—

*"The good old Commonwealth of Massachusetts. — A 'gem of purest ray serene' is this day added to her 'crown jewels.'"*

His Excellency made a brief speech in response to this toast, complimenting the town of Lancaster, and concluding with the following:—

*"The Town of Lancaster, — long known as one of the most beautiful of the rural towns of Massachusetts, henceforward to be famed in a new aspect of civilization."*

The second regular toast was omitted in consequence of the absence of Ex-Governor Washburn; but we print it, viz.:—

*"That Ex-Governor of the Commonwealth, — by whose recommendations, and under whose auspices, provision was made for the establishment of our Institution."*

The third regular toast was the following:—

*"The Private Contributors to the Fund for the Establishment of our School, — generous co-laborers with the State, — in loco parentis, — silver threads of brotherly charity intertwining and encircling the golden cord of fatherly care."*

The Chairman called upon Mr. CHARLES HALE, Editor of the "Boston Daily Advertiser," to respond to this toast. After some playful allusions, Mr. Hale said that he could not pretend to have been one of the subscribers to the fund: printers are proverbially "poor printers" always; but, as an humble member of the Press, he would claim for the Press some

share in bringing the subject to the attention of the public. The act of the Legislature, in 1854, appropriated twenty thousand dollars for the establishment of the School, provided an equal sum were subscribed by private individuals within six months. That period had more than half elapsed, when Governor Washburn, who had early been a friend and advocate of the establishment of such an institution, addressed a letter to the editors of several papers, inviting their attention to the subject. Mr. Hale had the pleasure of writing an article for the "Daily Advertiser," in which the plan was set forth; and so immediately did the community respond, that, on the same morning that the article appeared, he received a letter from a gentleman of Boston, agreeing to be one of twenty to subscribe a thousand dollars each; and, at the same time, another letter from another citizen, offering to do any thing in his power, and proposing, in case it were deemed best to complete the amount in smaller subscriptions, to be one of a hundred to pay two hundred dollars each. The subject was kept before the public; and within seven days more than one-quarter, and within eighteen days one-half, of the necessary sum was pledged through the columns of the "Advertiser." Public-spirited individuals made collections, and the whole sum was something more than completed within the prescribed time. Mr. Hale then adverted to some of the leading aspects in which the School presents

itself, and declared that in one respect its foundation marked an epoch in the history of civilization; viz., the recognition by government, to a marked and peculiar degree, for the first time, of the influence of woman upon social life and in the body politic. This is the first time a government has sought to prevent crime by providing a peculiar social education for women. Respect for woman is a mark of civilization; and it is really an indication of the advance of the world in civilization, that, while the late war, in which three great European powers have been engaged, has not furnished the page of history with the name of a single *hero* of whom the world can fairly be proud, that same war has furnished the world with a *heroine* in Florence Nightingale, whose laurels are brighter than any warrior ever won, and whose name will never be forgotten. He closed with a toast to this effect.

The Chairman then announced the fourth regular toast:—

*“The Purpose and Theory of the Industrial School,—a scabbard of mercy covering the sword of justice.”*

A brief and entertaining response was made by Deacon GRANT. Fifth regular toast:—

*“Restraint under Proclivities to Vice, without Confinement,—a problem more difficult to solve than ‘a church without a bishop,’ or ‘a State without a king.’”*

Sixth regular toast:—

*“The Citizens of Lancaster.—We thank them for their old common: the water that gushes from its centre will make it a new common.”*



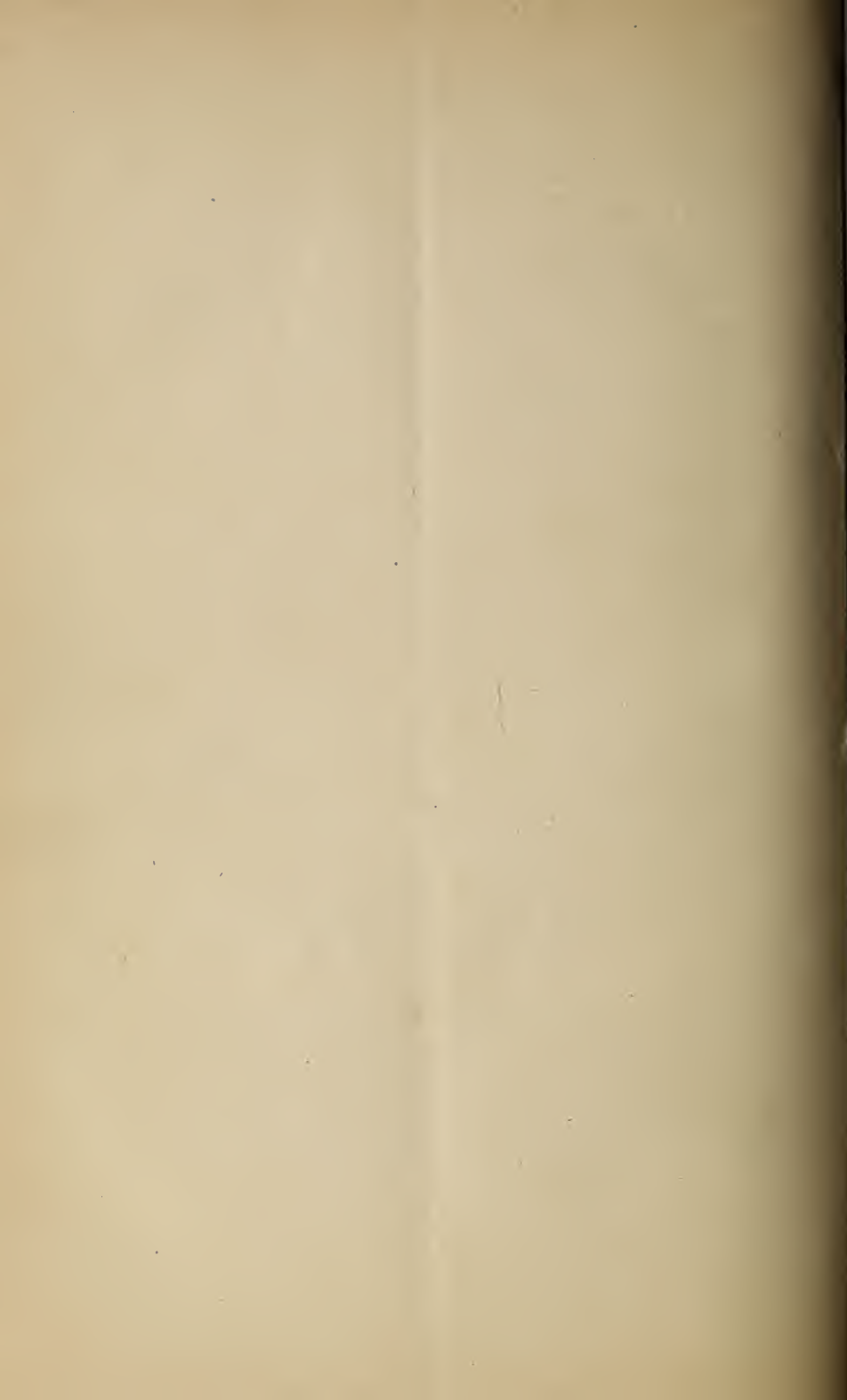
Capt. FISHER, of Lancaster, made an appropriate response. Seventh regular toast: —

“ *The Ladies of Lancaster.* — The ample provision made by them for the entertainment of visitors to-day attests the deep interest they feel in the success of an institution established for the benefit of their sex.”

REV. CHRISTOPHER D. THAYER, of Beverly (a native of Lancaster), was called upon to respond to this sentiment, which duty he discharged with much eloquence, calling to mind the noble-hearted ladies who in times past resided in the Stillwell Mansion, when the Hiller and Cleveland families occupied it. He believed they would be gratified with the use to which the buildings and grounds are now put. He also alluded to the apparent congeniality of the atmosphere to education, indicated by the fact that Jared Sparks, President of Harvard College; George B. Emerson; and Solomon P. Miles, — three gentlemen distinguished in the cause of education, — had lived within a stone's throw of the present location. From these influences and others, he drew a happy augury for the success of the new Institution.

This speech closed the intellectual banquet; for it was now time for those visitors who intended to take the railroad to Boston to proceed to the station. Indeed, the time for all the speeches had obviously been limited; and if “brevity” be indeed “the soul of wit” (as we think it truly is), never were there half a dozen wittier speeches than those which followed the colla-

tion given by the ladies of Lancaster on this memorable occasion. The company separated in the best of humor, greatly gratified and satisfied with the celebration of the day; the pleasure of which literally no cloud occurred to mar. The Boston train left Lancaster at five o'clock, and reached the city shortly after seven without accident.









2.1. 1884



